IN THE CLAIMS:

1. – 7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A combustor for a gas turbine engine, said combustor comprising:

a swirler assembly; and

a dome assembly comprising a sealplate and a domeplate, said sealplate ~~welded to said domeplate and~~ comprising an overhang portion and an integrally-formed body, said sealplate welded to said domeplate such that [[a]] an annular gap is defined between said domeplate and said sealplate overhang portion, said swirler assembly welded to said ~~domeplate~~ dome assembly.

9. (original) A combustor in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said domeplate comprises an upstream side, a downstream side, and an opening extending therebetween, at least one of said upstream and downstream sides comprises a chamfered edge that defines said opening.

10. (original) A combustor in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said domeplate comprises an upstream side, a downstream side, and an opening extending therebetween, at least one of said domeplate upstream and downstream sides comprises a counter-bored edge that defines said opening.

11. (original) A combustor in accordance with Claim 10 wherein at least a portion of said sealplate is secured within said counter-bored edge, said counter-bored edge facilitates aligning said swirler assembly relative to said domeplate.

12. (original) A combustor in accordance with Claim 8 further comprising a baffle brazed to said sealplate.

13. (currently amended) A combustor in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said

swirler assembly comprises at least a secondary swirler welded to said sealplate and a primary swirler coupled to said secondary swirler such that said primary swirler is free to move against said secondary swirler.[[.]]

14. (currently amended) A gas turbine engine comprising a combustor comprising a dome assembly, at least one injector, and ~~an air~~ a swirler assembly, said dome assembly comprising a sealplate and a domeplate, said sealplate ~~welded to said domeplate and~~ comprising a body and an overhang portion extending integrally from said body, said sealplate welded to said domeplate such that [[a]] an annular gap is defined between said domeplate and said sealplate overhang portion, said swirler assembly welded to said ~~domeplate~~ dome assembly, said at least one injector coupled to said dome assembly.

15. (currently amended) A gas turbine engine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said domeplate comprises an upstream side, a downstream side, and an opening extending therebetween, said opening sized to receive at least a portion of said ~~air~~ swirler assembly therethrough, at least one of said domeplate upstream and downstream sides comprises a chamfered edge that circumscribes said opening such that said edge defines said opening.

16. (currently amended) A gas turbine engine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said domeplate comprises an upstream side, a downstream side, and an opening extending therebetween, said opening sized to receive at least a portion of said ~~air~~ swirler assembly therethrough, at least one of said domeplate upstream and downstream sides comprises a counter-bored edge that circumscribes said opening such that said edge defines said opening.

17. (original) A gas turbine engine in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said counter-bored edge is sized to receive at least a portion of said sealplate therein such that said counter-bored edge facilitates aligning said swirler assembly relative to said domeplate.

18. (original) A gas turbine engine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said combustor further comprises a baffle welded to said sealplate and extending downstream

from said domeplate.

19. (original) A gas turbine engine in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said swirler assembly comprises at least a secondary swirler welded to said sealplate and a primary swirler coupled to said secondary swirler.